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in Icefiord, where the shipwrecked men, to their great joy, found the fisher-vessels, the *Venshab* and *Speculation*, both hailing from Tromsø. A short time previously Mathilas had fallen in with the Swedish expedition vessel, *Axel Thoresen*, on her way to the North, which changed her destination out of consideration for the shipwrecked men. Not long after, Aarström made his appearance, and the crews were divided among the three vessels, and reached Tromsø in safety, certainly not without the heavy loss of their summer earnings.

The Norwegian land mile is = to 7 English. The sea mile 15 to a degree.

4. *Account of a Journey across the Atlas Mountains and through the Oases Tuat and Tidikelt to Tripoli, by way of Ghadames, in the year 1864.*
By M. GERHARD ROHLFS.

[M. Rohlfs has sent the following Report of the remarkable journey he has lately performed, of which a short account has already appeared in the present volume of 'Proceedings,' p. 79.]

WHEN I started from Algiers in the month of August, 1863, with the intention of penetrating to the oasis of Tuat, through Laghnat and Abiad-Sur-Schieh, insurmountable obstacles presented themselves in the latter place, owing to the refusal of Sidi-Sliman-ben-Hamsa, who was then living, to give me letters of recommendation. These were indispensable, in order to enable me to reach Gurara, the most northerly province of 'Tuat. I found myself compelled, therefore, to turn back and try to reach Tuat from another direction, and believed I should attain my object with greater facility if I made Morocco my point of departure. My former journey in that country had made me acquainted with many people, and I was, moreover, sure of the protection of Sidi-el-Nadj-Abd-es-Shalam of Uesan, who, as chief of a religious brotherhood, that of Muley Thaib, ruled over the greater part of the Arabs of Morocco and the Algerian Sahara as far as Ghadames.

On arriving in Tanger the English minister, Mr. Drummond Kay, furnished me, in addition, with a letter of recommendation to the Grand Sherif in Uesan, and treated me with great kindness. The Sidi-el-Nadj-Abd-es-Shalam, besides giving me numerous letters of introduction, forwarded my projects by sending me with a caravan of pilgrims belonging to the tribe Beni-Mgill, who live in the Great Atlas, and who happened to be there during my stay in Uesan. By this fortunate circumstance I was enabled to reach the Great Atlas without danger, being under the protection of the most formidable tribe of this vast mountain range. I had only one servant, as my means did not enable me to engage more; and I was obliged to expend much in presents whilst in Uesan. We were both mounted, and I thus ascended the Atlas all the way on horseback, although the journey was full of risk, especially in descending the southern slope.

In the beginning of May, 1864, I continued my journey in company with the pilgrims of Uesan. On the southern slopes of the Djebel-Muley-Dris-Serone I first entered the country of the savage tribes, for to the north of that mountain, and thence to the coast, the Arab element prevails. I left Fes to the eastward, the towns of Mikenes and Serone lying to the west; and passing over the plains of Gurr and Sis, I entered on the district of the Beni-Ntir, the most northerly of the savage tribes inhabiting the Great Atlas. My course, with the exception of the many windings which the hills forced us to take, was always south-easterly; and I had attained now to so great an

elevation, that the needle of my aneroid barometer* had completely turned round. We were, therefore, at an elevation of more than 4500 feet, and yet we were still ascending, for on reaching the Beni-Ntir we had only arrived at the first high plateau. Continuing a south-easterly course, we soon arrived in the country of the Beni-Mgill, whose grazing-grounds extend as far as the wells of the Muluia.

The magnificence of the Atlas is displayed here to its greatest extent. The height of the range must be almost double what has been supposed, and several snow-capped peaks are seen in every direction. The mineral formation of the range was chiefly granite, which rock showed itself conspicuously everywhere. Gigantic larch and other trees almost made me fancy myself in Switzerland. The highest range of peaks, however, the Djebel-Aieshin, which is covered with glaciers and snow, lies further to the south: across it lies the road leading to the springs of Gers and Sis. The southern slope of the Atlas is as steep as the northern ascent is long and gradual. In two days' journey the palm-trees in Ksor Ifri, on the l'Ued Sis, are reached, although the mountains proper end near Ksor-es-Shuck, the most northerly of the oases of Mdaghra.

Following the Sis, which also has a south-easterly direction, I travelled through the oases Ertib, Tissinei, and Tafilet. I was compelled to stop in the last-named a long time, before I found an opportunity of going to Tuat. At length I obtained camels of the Uled Boanan of the great Duemeni tribe, who depasture their flocks on the l'Ued Gehr. I was thus enabled to travel through the Hammada (which separates the l'Ued Gehr from Tafilet), and arrived safely at the l'Ued Shaura, which is chiefly peopled by the Khnema, one of the most hostile tribes inhabiting the whole desert. I, however, passed safely through their country, and after a short stay in Karsas, the chief place in the l'Ued Shaura, was able to start for Tuat. From Karsas this oasis can be reached by two roads, one of which is by the l'Ued Shaura, and leads to Buda, one of the provinces of Tuat lying on the same river; the other runs in an easterly direction, and goes to Zabith, also in Tuat. Towards this province I directed my steps. It is only a few days' march from the l'Ued Shaura; but half-way there, in the middle of the Hammada, there is an interesting place called Fogara. I found here caverns which appear to have been once inhabited by the Tuaregs, as numerous Targish inscriptions covered the walls. The Tuaregs, therefore, must formerly have lived much further to the northward than they now do. Leaving Zabith I travelled all through Tuat towards the south, and on presenting my letters of recommendation from Sidi-el-Nadj-Abd-es-Shalam, met everywhere with the kindest reception. From one of the most southerly provinces of Tuat, Shali by name, I continued in a north-easterly direction towards Tidikelt. The first oasis of this country, separated from Tuat by a Hammada, is reached after two days' march, and is called Aulef. But I did not remain here, and proceeded, as quickly as possible, towards Shala, from which place I hoped to be able to reach Timbuctu. I passed Tit and Inrhar also without stopping. Having arrived, however, in Ain-Shala, so many obstacles presented themselves to my proposed journey, that I was compelled to turn back to Tripoli. A stay of almost two months, and the prospect of a yet longer delay before a caravan started, made my further advance an utter impossibility. The Nadj-Abd-el-Kader, indeed, wished almost to compel me to go to Timbuctu, and thus carry out the instructions contained in the passport I brought from Uesan.

* I had only one barometer, and this, as it now proved, was not adapted for high measurements, as it was only partly graduated; the slender means, however, which I had at my disposal is a sufficient excuse, if the results of this journey do not turn out so complete as the public and myself would wish.

But as my money was nearly all spent, I was obliged to yield to the necessity of the case, and returned with a Tuareg caravan to Ghadames.

On the return journey I followed nearly the same route throughout as that travelled over before me by the early European travellers across the desert. Between the elevated plains of Tadmait and Maydir, proceeding in a north-easterly direction, and following the l'Ued Tuil, we arrived in Abiad-mto-temassanin. From this place I continued due south, in order to visit the little Samia Temassanin belonging to the Uled Sidi-el-hadj-Faki. Before I arrived there I had to pass through the vast "Srharhar," and continued then in a due north-westerly direction from Temassanin to Ghadames, passing the Tinrhard country with its innumerable brooks.

After a short stay I took my final departure from this city of the Desert and marched over Derdj and the Djebel, near Sintan, to Tripoli, where I arrived at the end of December last. I have abstained from giving full details of my journey in this place, as my Journal will be published in full in Petermann's 'Mittheilungen,' and will be there accessible to the members of the Royal Geographical Society.
